

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03269 141401Z

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CPR-02 NEAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8284

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3269

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: PINT PDIP LE US ASEC

SUBJ: U.S. CONDOLENCES ON MURDER OF TONY FRANGIEH

1. TONY FRANGIEH'S FUNERAL WILL BE HELD TODAY (JUNE 14) IN ZGHORTA. SO FAR AS I KNOW, FRENCH AMBASSADOR IS ONLY MEMBER OF WESTERN DIPLOMATIC CORPS WHO IS GOING. (UK AND ITALIAN AMBASSADORS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT GOING AND I WILL FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE.) MAJOR CONSIDERATION IS SECURITY, BUT THERE IS ALSO RISK THAT GESTURE WOULD BE POLITICALLY MISINTERPRETED. I AM SENDING A LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO PRESIDENT FRANGIEH.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CONDOLENCE BOOK WILL BE OPENED HERE IN BEIRUT -- PERHAPS AT PRESIDENT FRANGIEH'S RESIDENCE AT NACCACHE, AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, OR AT PARLIAMENT. SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMITTING, I WILL PLAN PAY CONDOLENCES THERE.

3. BRITISH AMBASSADOR WAKEFIELD IS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF PAYING A CONDOLENCE CALL IN ZGHORTA TOMORROW (JUNE 15). IF HE DOES DECIDE TO GO, I MAY CONSIDER MAKING SIMILAR JOURNEY, DEPENDING ON ADVICE FROM GOL PROTOCOL OFFICIALS AND IF SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMIT.

4. TONY FRANGIEH WAS A DEPUTY, A FORMER MINISTER,
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AS WELL AS SON OF A FORMER PRESIDENT. ALTHOUGH HIS MURDER OBVIOUSLY HAS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE THAT THERE BE SOME FORMAL MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM WASHINGTON, CONCHED IN PURELY HUMANITARIAN TERMS. THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES:

A. A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER ADDRESSED TO

PRESIDENT SARKIS, EXPRESSING APPROPRIATE SENTIMENTS
AND ASKING THAT HIS (PRESIDENT CARTER'S) SENTIMENTS
BE PASSED ON TO FORMER PRESIDENT FRANGIEH;

B. A LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE TO
PRESIDENT SARKIS, EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AT THE REQUEST
OF PRESIDENT CARTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, CONDOLENCE MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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